

Serial No. 10/064,350
Filed: 07/03/2003
Page 2 of 9

Examiner: Frank B. Vanaman
Group Art Unit: 3618

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A fender assembly for a vehicle comprising a longitudinal frame and carrying ground-engaging wheels supporting the frame above a road surface and positioned laterally of the frame, the fender assembly comprising:

a fender of a relatively linear cross dimension adapted to overlie at least one of the wheels and having an upper surface and a lower surface;

an elongated support arm mounted to either of the upper or lower surfaces of the fender and having a longitudinal axis;

a bracket assembly mounted to the support arm and having a connector for mounting the bracket assembly to the vehicle frame for rotation about an axis of rotation substantially parallel to and spaced from the longitudinal axis of the elongated support arm to define an offset distance therebetween; and

the bracket assembly further including a length-adjustable link to selectively adjust the offset distance between the longitudinal axis of the elongated support arm and the axis of rotation of the bracket assembly.

2. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 1 wherein the length-adjustable link comprises a first bracket mounted to the support arm, a second bracket coupled to the connector, and the first and second brackets are coupled together for relative vertical movement therebetween.

3. (Original) The fender assembly according to claim 2 and further comprising a releasable fastener extending through the first and second brackets such that when the releasable

Serial No. 10/064,350
Filed: 07/03/2003
Page 3 of 9

Examiner: Frank B. Vanaman
Group Art Unit: 3618

fastener is in an unreleased condition, the relative position of the first and second brackets is fixed, and when the releasable fastener is in a released condition, the first and second brackets are adjustable relative to each other.

4. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 3 wherein the releasable fastener comprises a bolt extending through aligned first and second openings in the first and second brackets, respectively, and a nut threadably mounted on the bolt, wherein the bolt is tightened to place the fastener in the unreleased condition, and the bolt is loosened to place the fastener in the released condition.

5. (Original) The fender assembly according to claim 4 wherein the nut comprises a base that abuts the first bracket when the fastener is in the unreleased condition.

6. (Currently Amended) The fender assembly according to claim 9 wherein the base has linear edges that interface with the ~~spaced gussets~~ channel flanges to restrain relative rotation of the nut with respect to the first bracket.

7. (Original) The fender assembly according to claim 6 wherein the area of the base abutting the first bracket is at least twice as great as the cross-sectional area of the bolt.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 5 wherein the first bracket comprises flanges defining a channel therebetween and the base width is substantially equal to the channel width.

10. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 6 wherein the base is rectangular.

11. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 10 wherein the nut further comprises a collar extending from the base and defining a threaded opening within the collar.

Serial No. 10/064,350
Filed: 07/03/2003
Page 4 of 9

Examiner: Frank B. Vanaman
Group Art Unit: 3618

12. (Original) The fender assembly according to claim 11 wherein the nut further comprises gussets extending between the collar and the base.

13. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 4 wherein at least one of the aligned first and second openings is a slot.

14. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 13 wherein both aligned first and second openings are slots.

15. (Original) The fender assembly according to claim 4 wherein the first and second brackets each have a face with a serration and the serrations mesh when the fastener is in the unreleased position.

16. (Original) The fender assembly according to claim 15 wherein a pair of spaced, parallel serrations is provided on both faces.

17. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 16 wherein the first and second openings lie between the parallel serrations.

18. (Original) The fender assembly according to claim 17 wherein the second bracket further comprises a platform that acts as a support when in the unreleased position.

19. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 4 wherein the second bracket comprises a substantially flat plate having opposing faces through which the second opening passes.

20. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 19 wherein one of the faces of the flat plate is adapted to abut the vehicle frame and the fastener extends through the frame and the aligned first and second openings of the first and second brackets wherein the release of the fastener permits the rotation of at least the first bracket relative to the vehicle frame.

21. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 4 and further comprising a second fastener and the second bracket has a third opening that receives the second

Serial No. 10/064,350
Filed: 07/03/2003
Page 5 of 9

Examiner: Frank B. Vanaman
Group Art Unit: 3618

fastener, wherein the second fastener is adapted to pass through the vehicle frame and into the third opening to form the rotatable mount.

22. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 21 wherein the second bracket comprises a collar in which is formed the third opening and an end plate connected to the collar and in which is formed the second opening.

23. (Original) The fender assembly according to claim 22 wherein the second bracket further comprises a gusset connecting the end plate to the collar.

24. (Original) The fender assembly according to claim 23 wherein the end plate is spaced from the collar.

25. (Original) The fender assembly according to claim 4 wherein the first bracket comprises a releasable mount for rotatably mounting the elongated support arm thereto.

26. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 25 wherein the releasable mount is a ring clamp defining an arm opening in which the arm is received.

27. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 26 wherein the ring clamp arm opening and the arm have complementary circular cross sections such that the arm can be rotated within the arm opening when the ring clamp is unclamped and is rotationally fixed when the ring clamp is clamped.

28. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 25 wherein the first bracket further comprises an end plate connected to the rotatable mount and in which is formed the first opening.

29. (Original) The fender assembly according to claim 28 wherein the first bracket further comprises a pair of spaced gussets connecting the end plate and the rotatable mount and defining a channel therebetween in which the nut is received.

30. (Previously Presented) The fender assembly according to claim 1 and further comprising at least one vibration-decoupling connector connecting the support arm to the fender.

Serial No. 10/064,350
Filed: 07/03/2003
Page 6 of 9

Examiner: Frank B. Vanaman
Group Art Unit: 3618

31. (Original) A fender mounting bracket for a vehicle comprising a longitudinal frame that carries ground engaging wheels above which is supported a fender, the fender mounting assembly comprising:

an elongated support arm adapted to be mounted to either of an upper or lower surface of the fender and defining a longitudinal axis;

a length-adjustable link connection having a first portion connected to the elongated support arm and a second portion adapted to be rotatably mounted to a vehicle frame at a rotational axis spaced from the longitudinal axis of the elongated arm, wherein the offset spacing between the arm longitudinal axis and the rotational axis can be changed by adjusting the length of the link.

32. (Original) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 31 wherein the first portion comprises a first bracket mounted to the support arm and the second portion comprises a second bracket mounted to the first bracket for relative movement therebetween.

33. (Previously Presented) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 32 and further comprising a releasable fastener extending through first and second openings in the first and second brackets, respectively, such that when the releasable fastener is in an unreleased condition, the relative position of the first and second brackets is fixed, and when the releasable fastener is in a released condition, the first and second brackets are selectively adjustable relative to each other.

34. (Original) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 33 wherein the first and second brackets each have a face with a serration and the serrations mesh when the fastener is in the unreleased position.

35. (Original) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 34 wherein a pair of spaced, parallel serrations is provided on both faces.

36. (Previously Presented) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 35 wherein the first and second openings lie between the parallel serrations.

Serial No. 10/064,350
Filed: 07/03/2003
Page 7 of 9

Examiner: Frank B. Vanaman
Group Art Unit: 3618

37. (Previously Presented) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 36 and further comprising a mounting fastener, and wherein the second bracket has a third opening that receives the mounting fastener, wherein the mounting fastener is adapted to pass through the vehicle frame and into the third opening for rotatably mounting the second bracket to the vehicle frame.

38. (Previously Presented) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 36 wherein the second bracket comprises a collar in which is formed the third opening and an end plate is connected to the collar, and one side of the end plate forms the corresponding face on which the corresponding serrations are located.

39. (Original) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 38 wherein the second bracket further comprises a gusset connecting the end plate to the collar.

40. (Original) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 39 wherein the end plate is spaced from the collar.

41. (Original) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 40 wherein the first bracket comprises a releasable mount for rotatably mounting the arm thereto.

42. (Previously Presented) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 41 wherein the releasable mount is a ring clamp defining an arm opening in which the arm is received.

43. (Previously Presented) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 42 wherein the ring clamp arm opening and the arm have complementary circular cross sections such that the arm can be rotated within the opening when the ring clamp is unclamped and is rotationally fixed when the ring clamp is clamped.

44. (Previously Presented) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 41 wherein the first bracket further comprises an end plate connected to the rotatable mount and one side of which forms the corresponding face on which the serrations are located and in which is formed the first opening.

Serial No. 10/064,350
Filed: 07/03/2003
Page 8 of 9

Examiner: Frank B. Vanaman
Group Art Unit: 3618

45. (Previously Presented) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 51 wherein the first bracket further comprises a pair of spaced gussets connecting the end plate and the rotatable mount and defining a channel therebetween in which the nut is received.

46. (Original) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 45 wherein the nut comprises a base that abuts the first bracket when the fastener is in the unreleased condition.

47. (Previously Presented) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 46 wherein the base has linear edges that interface with the spaced gussets to restrain rotational motion of the nut with respect to the first bracket.

48. (Previously Presented) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 47 wherein a width of the base abutting the first bracket is at least twice as great as a cross-sectional area of the bolt.

49. (Original) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 48 wherein the base is of a width substantially equal to the width of the channel.

50. (Previously Presented) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 49 wherein the base is rectangular.

51. (Previously Presented) The fender mounting bracket according to claim 44 wherein the releasable fastener comprises a bolt extending through aligned first and second openings in the first and second brackets, respectively, and a nut threadably mounted on the bolt, wherein the bolt is tightened to place the fastener in the unreleased condition, and the bolt is loosened to place the fastener in the released condition.